



Deepwater Horizon Incident

Gulf of Mexico

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR BULLETS

May 20, 2010 0700

On May 20th, EPA convened the R6 RRT to discuss the Dispersant Monitoring and Assessment Directive - Addendum and issues related to its implementation.

Surface Application

The EPA Co-Chair inquired as what SMART data was showing in regard to surface application of dispersants. The USCG Co-Chair and NOAA representative stated they had seen no compelling evidence surface application was ineffective. They did remind RRT members that weather plays a significant role in the effectiveness and so effectiveness does vary by application. The USCG and NOAA did say they had some concerns about the ability of some spotters to reliably assess dispersant effectiveness. As a result NOAA SSC Ed Levine conducted a half day training last week for spotters.

Evaluation of Dispersant Toxicity

The EPA Co-Chair asked how the toxicity of dispersants had been evaluated by Unified Command in the selection of a dispersant. The USCG Co-Chair was concerned about potential USCG liability if the USCG essentially directs a responsible party not use a product EPA has placed on the Subpart J list. The NOAA representative expressed concern because he felt most listed dispersants had only limited lab data to support their toxicity values whereas there was a much larger body of historical data to characterize the potential effects of Corexit. He went to say that because of this Corexit is probably the only dispersant that NOAA could potentially connect to toxicity effects in marine animals. The NOAA representative and the EPA Region 6 NOAA representative currently serving in Robert reiterated that NOAA was conducting extensive sampling of water chemistry, the water column, animal tissues, etc. that would address toxicity concerns through the NRDA process.

Directive Compliance

The FOSC will report out to the RRT on the effectiveness and monitoring of surface and subsurface dispersant application and on the documentation BP will be providing to the FOSC and EPA RRT Co-Chair to document compliance with the directives. This will be scheduled in the near future once the FOSC has had the opportunity to discuss reporting with BP.

Operations: R6 Chalmette water operations began sampling in priority areas around Terrebonne/Timbalier Bay area on May 20th. Crews have been directed to take water samples plus any visible oil or "fresh" tar balls, patties, etc. Samples will be analyzed for dispersant compounds.

No surface dispersant was applied today because they could not find any non weathered oil to disperse, sub-surface dispersant did occur. BP reported SCAT teams flew over Barataria Bay and reported that Fourchon Beach was heavily oiled and it may have gone over the beach into the back waters this was supported by the ground teams who reported the Western portion of Grand Isle, Island has oil but the eastern 6 kilometers is clean. An Aerial SCAT of Brush Island indicated Oil on the Island but this has not been verified on the ground yet.